



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 15, 1999

NEWS MEDIA CONTACT:

Marty Goolsby (ORNL), 423/574-4166

Jeff Sherwood (DOE), 202/586-5806

Spallation Neutron Source Assessment and Action Plan Presented to Energy Department

Dr. David Moncton, the newly appointed Project Director for the Spallation Neutron Source (SNS), has presented his assessment of the project and a management action plan for designing and constructing the \$1.36 billion facility on time and on schedule. The SNS will be the world's most powerful research facility for neutron science. The accelerator-based neutron scattering facility will support research in broad areas of physical, chemical, materials, biological and medical sciences.

"I am pleased with Dr. Moncton's commitment to complete the SNS as a world class research center, on time and within budget," said Secretary of Energy Bill Richardson. "Dr. Moncton has a demonstrated track record in managing large scientific construction projects. He has energized the project team and they have a well-thought out and realistic plan."

In January 1999, the DOE reviewed the project's status and recommended that experienced project leadership be recruited to strengthen project performance. In February 1999, Dr. Moncton became the SNS Project Director. Dr. Moncton managed the construction of the \$1 billion Advanced Photon Source at the department's Argonne National Laboratory in Illinois.

The assessment determined that qualified people and adequate management systems are in place throughout the partner laboratories to support the current research and development activities of the project. However, additional experienced staff for key positions need to be recruited. The present accelerator concept is sound, uses existing, low-risk technology, and is highly likely to achieve the desired performance and reliability. High quality technical work is ongoing. However, the technical design needs to be optimized and fully integrated. Planning for safe execution of the project within the Integrated Safety Management systems of all the laboratories is advanced. Business and project management systems to support construction activities need to be strengthened.

Based on their assessment, Dr. Moncton and his team developed a management action plan. Within six months or sooner the project office will develop: an integrated organization with experienced people in key roles; an optimized project cost baseline; a strengthened agreement among the laboratory partners formalizing accountability and ensuring project office authority over all project personnel at partner labs; and, fully integrated project and business management systems to plan, track and control the project. A draft plan for project-wide environment safety and health standards and a tailored quality assurance plan will also be developed within six months.

"By completing this action plan we will ensure that the SNS can be constructed safely and within budget by 2005," said Dr. Moncton. "Construction of a leading-edge neutron research facility has become an urgent national priority. The SNS will be more powerful than any existing facility worldwide and will include new-generation neutron source technology and instrument design."

"The SNS collaboration has worked well together over the past three years in preparing the conceptual design, and it will now grow even stronger as we move into the construction phase under Dr. Moncton's capable leadership," said Secretary Richardson. "We will meet our objectives of establishing a research facility of unprecedented power, reliability and scientific capability. Success in achieving these technical goals can only be accomplished through exemplary cost, schedule and safety performance."

The SNS project is a collaboration of five Department of Energy laboratories led by Oak Ridge National Laboratory. The other four partners are Argonne National Laboratory, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and Los Alamos National Laboratory.

Additional information on the SNS is available at <http://www.ornl.gov/sns/>.

- DOE -

R99-079



At a Glance ■ News & Info ■ People & Pages
Science Education ■ Content Map ■ Search

We'd like your comments or suggestions about the U.S. DOE Home Page | [Disclaimer](#) | [Comments to Webmaster](#) | Updated: 04/15/99